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# ZONE OF PEACE AND COOPERATION OF THE SOUTH ATLANTIC

## Report of the Secretary-General

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## I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its forty-fifth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 45/36 of 27 November 1990, entitled "Zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic", in which the Assembly, taking note of the report of the Secretary-General, inter alia, called upon all States to cooperate in the promotion of the objectives of peace and cooperation established in the declaration of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic and to refrain from any action inconsistent with those objectives, as well as with the Charter of the United Nations and relevant resolutions of the Organization, particularly actions which may create or aggravate situations of tension and potential conflict in the region.

2. The General Assembly also welcomed the holding of the second meeting of the States of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic at Abuja, Nigeria, from 25 to 29 June 1990, and the convening of a seminar of a group of experts at Brazzaville from 12 to 15 June 1990, and one in Uruguay in April 1991. This seminar was devoted to reviewing the development and implementation of the legal regime established by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. It also noted that the Secretary-General was requested to keep the implementation of resolution 41/11 under review and to submit a report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session, taking into account, inter alia, the views expressed by Member States, and the decision to include in the provisional agenda of the Assembly's forty-sixth session the item entitled "Zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic".

3. Pursuant to resolution 45/36, the Secretary-General addressed a note verbale on 15 April 1991 to the Governments of the States Members of the United Nations requesting their views on the implementation of the declaration of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic.

4. At the time of writing, four Governments have replied to the Secretary-General. Any replies and notifications that may be received subsequently will be published as addenda to the present report.

## II. OTHER ACTIVITIES AFFECTING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OBJECTIVES OF THE ZONE OF PEACE AND COOPERATION OF THE SOUTH ATLANTIC

5. According to a decision of the first meeting of States of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic, and to General Assembly resolution 45/36, a second meeting of the Group of Experts of the States members of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic was held at Montevideo from 3 to 6 April 1991. At that meeting, particular importance was attached to various problems related to implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea in the region and to the national maritime policies of the States of the zone; areas of cooperation among States of the zone of peace and cooperation; harmonization of national legislations; review

of national marine policies with a view to the development of cooperation at various levels and to the protection and preservation of the maritime environment, including living and non-living resources.

6. The meeting of experts recommended, inter alia, that States members of the zone of peace and cooperation that have not done so should consider ratifying the Convention on the Law of the Sea and develop a regional system of information on the law of the sea and marine affairs. It also recommended the development of a regional and subregional system for the exchange of marine scientific information on the living and non-living resources and cooperation in training, marine scientific research and transfers of technology.

7. On the issue of protection and preservation of the marine environment, the experts proposed the initiation of contacts at the bilateral and subregional levels for enforcing national legislative provisions on the protection and preservation of the marine environment; the establishment of a mechanism for monitoring the marine environment; and the implementation of measures to avoid any negative environmental impact on straddling stocks. For further cooperation among the States of the zone of peace and cooperation, the meeting also recommended the development of a subregional seas programme.

## III. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

### ARGENTINA

[Original: Spanish]

[30 May 1991]

1. The Government of the Argentine Republic wishes to reiterate its firm support for the declaration of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic (General Assembly resolution 41/11), in the conviction that the countries of the region bear a major responsibility for achieving the objectives of the declaration. However, the Argentine Government feels that the countries of all other regions, particularly the militarily significant States, also have a special duty to cooperate so as to avoid hampering the achievement of these aims.

2. The Government of the Argentine Republic attaches particular importance to paragraph 2 of resolution 45/36, in which the General Assembly "calls upon all States to cooperate in the promotion of the objectives of peace and cooperation established in the declaration of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic and to refrain from any action inconsistent with those objectives, as well as with the Charter of the United Nations and relevant resolutions of the Organization, particularly actions which may create or aggravate situations of tension and potential conflict in the region".

3. In connection with the above-mentioned paragraph 2, attention should be drawn to the persistence in the South Atlantic of a colonial situation in the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, which affects the territorial integrity of the Argentine Republic. The process of normalizing relations between my country and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, on which the Secretary-General and the General Assembly of the United Nations have been kept duly informed, has not yet resolved the issue of sovereignty with regard to this colonial occupation.

4. Consequently - and given that it has not been possible to achieve the peaceful settlement repeatedly called for by the international community in the relevant General Assembly resolutions - it is vital that the parties to this dispute refrain from taking unilateral measures in any field, particularly that of natural resources, which could hamper the achievement of the aims of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic and affect the prospects for a just and lasting settlement of the sovereignty issue.

5. Continuing importance should therefore be attached to the final document adopted by the States of the zone meeting on 29 June 1990 in Abuja, Nigeria, in which they:

> "Express the hope that this new process of dialogue and cooperation should lead as soon as possible to the resumption of negotiations with a view to finding a just and durable solution to the dispute on sovereignty existing between both States;
>
> "Urge the full implementation of the United Nations General Assembly resolutions related to the question of the Malvinas Islands, that recommend that both States find the means to resolve peacefully and definitively all aspects of the future of the Islands, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations."

6. Turning to other matters, I should also like to inform the Secretary-General that new developments in the field of cooperation between the Latin American member States have taken place in the region.

7. On 26 March 1991, by political decision of the Presidents of the Argentine Republic, the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Republic of Paraguay and the Eastern Republic of Uruguay, the Treaty of Asunción was signed, setting up with effect from 31 December 1994 a common market bringing together the economies of the four countries and creating an appropriate means for improving the competitiveness of the countries and their economic operators.

8. The extensive climate of confidence and mutual cooperation between the Argentine Republic and the Federative Republic of Brazil in the peaceful use of nuclear power has enabled both countries to take a further step towards integration. On 28 November 1990 at Foz do Iguaçú, Brazil, Presidents Carlos Menem and Fernando Collor signed an Argentine-Brazilian Declaration on the Joint Nuclear Policy.

9. This instrument established a common system of accounting and control of nuclear materials for the two countries, provided for the negotiation - currently in progress - of an agreement on safeguards with the International Atomic Energy Agency specific to the two countries and, finally, provided for the adoption of measures for the full implementation of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, including the updating and improvement of that Treaty.

10. Furthermore, at the twelfth session of the General Conference of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (OPANAL) a resolution was adopted on cooperation between the Latin American nuclear-weapon-free zone and the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic, calling upon the States parties and signatories to the Treaty of Tlatelolco and its additional protocols to submit suggestions on formulas for devising mechanisms for cooperation between the two zones. On the basis of the replies received, the Secretary-General of OPANAL is to draw up a report for submission to the Agency at its next General Conference.

11. Despite the aspiration common to all countries of the zone to extend agreements on political matters to areas connected with development, my Government feels that the exchanges between the Latin American and African members of the zone have not yet achieved their full potential. The Argentine Government is therefore particularly concerned that help should be given to extend horizontal cooperation between all the countries of the zone, with the collaboration and assistance of the United Nations Development Programme, as called for in the 1990 Abuja declaration.

## BRAZIL

[Original: English]

[3 June 1991]

1. With the recent resurgence of multilateralism, as well as the negotiated settlement of conflicts experienced by the States of the zone of peace and of cooperation of the South Atlantic, the ideal has gained new impetus that the South Atlantic might definitively assert itself as the least-armed ocean in the world, in fulfilment of its calling as an area destined for cooperation and peaceful exchanges among peoples. The independence of Namibia, the gradual abolition of the apartheid regime in South Africa, and the progress in the peace talks between the Government of the People's Republic of Angola and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola which, favoured by the climate of détente, led to the signing of a cease-fire agreement on 31 May 1991, have all contributed to consolidating the zone of peace.

2. Aware of the important role played by the United Nations in normalizing the situation in southern Africa, Brazil has participated in the United Nations Verification Mission in Angola (UNAVEM) since its inception, the command of the mission having been entrusted to a Brazilian officer. With the signing at Lisbon of the peace accords for Angola and the calling of

elections, Angola is poising itself for a return to institutional normality. The independence of Namibia and the end of apartheid in South Africa will allow the southern part of the continent to integrate itself fully into the zone of peace and cooperation.

3. On the Latin American side of the Atlantic, there are favourable prospects for continued improvement in the understanding between Argentina and the United Kingdom, as may be indicated by the climate of dialogue and mutual understanding that prevailed at the fourth meeting of the Working Group on South Atlantic matters, held at Montevideo on 21 and 22 March 1991.

4. Long-standing aspirations for peace and coexistence in the region materialized with the Treaty establishing the common market in the southern cone of the South American continent (MERCOSUR), signed by the Presidents of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay at Asunción on 26 March 1991. That instrument, which sets down the rules for the establishment of a common market among the four countries concerned by 31 December 1994, is a landmark in overcoming protectionist and other national barriers of any kind. MERCOSUR will comprise an area of 11,800,000 square kilometres and a population of 180 million. It will be open for negotiation on accession by any State member of the Latin American Integration Association (LAIA) five years after its entry into force; any State which does not participate in extraregional associations or other subregional integration agreements may request to accede to it before that date. As stated by President Fernando Collor, "MERCOSUR is not meant to constitute an exclusive economic area, but rather an economic space both fully accessible and fully complementary to cooperation and exchanges among all Latin American States and groups of States".

5. The mutual friendship and cooperation between Brazil and Argentina found expression in the Declaration on the Joint Nuclear Policy, signed by the Presidents of both countries at Foz do Iguaçú on 28 November 1990, whereby a common system of accounting and control was established to ensure mutual control of both countries' nuclear activities. The two Heads of State committed themselves jointly to negotiate an agreement on safeguards with the International Atomic Energy Agency, as well as to update the Treaty of Tlatelolco, with a view to permitting its full entry into force. The importance of this event for the pursuit of the objectives that underlie the zone of peace and of cooperation need hardly be emphasized.

6. In the same spirit, a resolution was adopted at the twelfth regular session of the General Conference of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (OPANAL), held at Mexico City from 9 to 10 May 1991, whereby States Parties signatories of the first and second protocols to the Treaty of Tlatelolco were invited to submit suggestions on formulas for the creation of cooperative mechanisms between the zone of peace and cooperation and the Latin American nuclear-weapon-free zone.

7. Cooperation and coordination among the States of the zone of peace and cooperation have also advanced in the field of the law of the sea and protection of the marine environment, as attested by the second meeting of

the marine environment, as attested by the second meeting of experts on the law of the sea of the States of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic, held at Montevideo from 3 to 6 April 1991. Seventeen experts attended the meeting, from which recommendations emerged concerning specific issues related to the law of the sea, particularly with regard to maritime law, policies and planning, protection and preservation of the marine environment and human resources management and training.

8. The fact that the establishment of the zone of peace and cooperation meets the universal aspiration towards eliminating threats to peace and towards ensuring a climate of tranquillity and understanding necessary for social and economic progress is attested by the growing, and now almost unanimous, support of the States Members of the United Nations for the successive resolutions on the zone of peace and cooperation adopted since resolution 41/11 of 27 October 1986.

## ECUADOR

[Original: Spanish]

[23 April 1991]

1. I should like to confirm that the Government of Ecuador is playing an active part in applying all the principles set out in resolution 45/36 with a view to promoting a genuine zone of peace and cooperation in the South Atlantic, where not only the siting of nuclear weapons but also the transit of dangerous materials and the deposit of radioactive waste would be prohibited. These measures would serve to back up the efforts made by Latin America and Africa to denuclearize their respective continents and would offer a further guarantee of security to neighbouring non-Atlantic countries.

2. The Government of Ecuador also shares the goal of protecting the environment and preserving the marine and coastal living resources of all the natural regions of the planet, especially one of such strategic importance to the world as the South Atlantic.

3. Ecuador believes that one of the most suitable instruments for achieving these goals is international cooperation and, consequently, it not only welcomes the decision of the countries of the South Atlantic to foster such cooperation, but also declares its full willingness to take part in any programme that provides for participation by neighbouring non-Atlantic countries.

4. Finally, the Government of Ecuador believes that the international community must unreservedly support the aspirations of the South Atlantic States to establish effective machinery to promote human rights, racial equality, justice and fundamental freedoms, so as to ensure that all these are taken into account as vital elements for the establishment ofpeace, the full development of peoples and the consolidation of regional and interregional solidarity.

## UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

[Original: Russian]

[3 June 1991]

1. The Soviet Union reaffirms its support for regional efforts to limit the arms race, and for disarmament, the establishment of new post-confrontational security structures and the encouragement of fruitful cooperation and relations of partnership between States in various fields of intraregional cooperation. Such efforts are an integral part of the global process, currently gathering force, of creating a new world structure based on the democratic institutions common to the civilized world and on the norms of international law. It is in this light that we consider the initiative of the South Atlantic States to create a zone of peace and cooperation in the region which was put forward at the forty-fifth session of the United Nations General Assembly.

2. The efforts to promote this initiative undertaken by the States in the region against the background of a general improvement in international relations are making it easier to translate it into practical reality. A further step in this direction was the twelfth session of the General Conference of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (OPANAL), held in May 1991 in Mexico. We share the support expressed by the participants in the forum for collective action aimed at preventing the introduction of nuclear weapons into the region, as well as their concern to eliminate chemical and bacteriological weapons throughout the world. In the light of recent events in the region of the Persian Gulf, the appeal made to strengthen the regime of the Treaty of Tlatelolco and establish a regional security system in the interests of ensuring peace and stability in the region and, on the planet as a whole, deserves support.

3. In our opinion, the joint initiatives of Argentina and Brazil on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy could provide a positive stimulus to the development and consolidation of multilateral cooperation in the region. The implementation of the Declaration on the Joint Nuclear Policy, signed at the end of 1990 by the Heads of State of the two countries, might help to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons of all kinds and ensure that the zone has a genuine non-nuclear status.

4. The Soviet Union is convinced that an indispensable condition for the establishment of a zone of peace and cooperation in the South Atlantic is the dismantling of apartheid and the establishment of a non-racial, democratic and stable State in South Africa. The Soviet Union, which is in favour of a political solution to the problem of apartheid, proceeds from the assumption that all the influential forces in the Republic of South Africa will show the necessary will and determination and do everything they can to bring about an end to violence in the country and the initiation of full-scale talks on a future constitution, and to ensure that the process of change as a whole is irreversible. We also welcome the declared intention of the South African

Government to accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the International Atomic Energy Agency's system of guarantees.

5. A key factor in reducing tension and strengthening stability in the region has been the settlement of the Namibian problem with the entry of an independent Namibia, as a fully equal member, into the world community and the family of States of the South Atlantic.

6. Following Namibia, peace and prosperity must come to the neighbouring country of Angola. It is essential that the agreement reached between the Angolan Government and the opposition forces on a cease-fire and a political settlement should lead to the establishment of genuine peace and national reconciliation in that long-suffering country.

7. The Soviet Union supports the appeal of the United Nations General Assembly to all States to cooperate in promoting the objectives of the establishment of a zone of peace and cooperation in the South Atlantic. For our part we are ready to promote in every possible way the efforts of the States in the region in that direction.

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# NIGERIA

[Original: English]

[28 October 1991]

1. The United Nations General Assembly's solemn declaration of the "zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic" in resolution 41/11 of 27 October 1986 constituted a historic landmark in multilateral initiatives to promote regional peace and international security. Five years after the zone came into being, its vision as a dynamic instrument of cooperation between the African and Latin American countries on both sides of the South Atlantic in political, economic, scientific, technical, cultural and other spheres is daily gaining increasing momentum. As a ready, functioning vehicle for South-South cooperation, its potential for accelerating the progressive development of the South Atlantic region has been manifested in various ways. There is growing knowledge among Member States about the abundant resources of the zone, while concrete achievements are being recorded in enhanced political contacts, socio-economic relations, commercial transactions, intensive cooperation in environmental protection, harmonization of national policies on maritime questions and cultural exchanges, among others. New vistas of cooperation and opportunities are opening up by the day in other areas unimagined in 1986.

2. In historical perspectives, the creation of the zone in 1986 was a culmination of various initiatives by the States of the zone, dating back to 1976, when the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs organized a seminar, which recommended that the Federal Government of Nigeria work towards the emergence of a South Atlantic zone to protect and promote the interests and aspirations of African and Latin American countries on both sides of the ocean. This recommendation was clearly influenced by the events in Angola at the time, as well as concerns for apartheid South Africa's military and geo-political designs on and illegal occupation of Namibia and southern Angola, the extension of the super-Powers' military competition into the South Atlantic region, reflected in the establishment of military bases with their negative consequences for the security of the States of the region, and the desire to straddle the centuries-old colonially inspired divide between the African and Latin American States bordering the South Atlantic ocean by instituting a new era of contact, cooperation and development. The pivotal role played by Nigeria and Brazil in canvassing these initiatives, which finally saw the materialization of the zone in 1986, thus could not have come as a surprise.

3. The first high-level official meeting of the States of the zone, held at Rio de Janeiro from 25 to 29 July 1988, set the stage for meaningful agreements and measures to identify common interests, intensify dialogue, promote cooperation and erect a solid foundation for the zone. The Final Document of the meeting, contained in document A/43/512, highlighted the common objective of cooperation for peace and development in an environment free from tension and in conformity with international law, constructive

relations based on dialogue, understanding mutual interest and respect for the sovereign equality of all States, to the benefit of the peoples of the region and the international community as a whole. Topical issues covered by the meeting included the foreign attempts at the destabilization of Angola, the illegal occupation of Namibia by South Africa and its apartheid policies against the majority black population in South Africa itself, the Malvinas question, the dumping of radioactive wastes in the region and the question of the attainment of the objectives of the denuclearization of Africa and Latin America, all of which showed the dynamism of the zone in living up to the aspirations of the States of the zone. Important areas of regional cooperation agreed upon then continue to form the bedrock of contacts at the levels of Governments and peoples within the zone.

4. Nigeria is pleased to note that since 1988, significant transformations have taken place at the international and zonal levels, which have accelerated the implementation of the objectives of the zone. Among others, the elimination of East-West tension, the end of the cold war and entente between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics have led to the gradual relaxation of military competition in the South Atlantic region. In the political sphere, Namibia attained independence under the United Nations in March 1990, while the combination of domestic uprising and international pressure are forcing the apartheid regime in South Africa to abandon its apartheid policies and begin embarking on the processes that would herald a non-racial, democratic society. The civil war in Angola has formally ended, and a United Nations verification mission has been set up to keep the peace and assist the process towards multi-party democracy. The civil war in Liberia, in spite of its obvious national catastrophe, has remained a localized affair which the Economic Community of West African States has been able to grapple with under its peace-keeping force, the ECOWAS Cease-fire Monitoring Group (ECOMOG), without the intervention of extra-regional powerful forces. Finally, there has been considerable improvement in relations between Argentina and the United Kingdom, which makes the prospects for a just, peaceful resolution of the Malvinas Islands situation more promising than before.

5. On other issues, the dumping of radioactive and hazardous wastes in the region by foreign waste merchants, which became very rampant in 1987 and 1988, has now practically stopped, thanks to the determined efforts of the States of the zone, which established a Dump-Watch mechanism during the 1988 Rio de Janeiro meeting to coordinate and monitor their national efforts for the prohibition of such nefarious activities. The backing of the zone for Nigeria in having the issue of the dumping of nuclear and industrial wastes in Africa included in the agenda of the forty-third session of the General Assembly enabled the matter to enjoy popular multilateral support through two resolutions - resolutions 43/75 Q and T of 7 December 1988 - which called for the total prohibition of such dumping. These resolutions have greatly contributed to the stoppage of such practices within the marine and coastal environments of the zone in the past two years.

6. In short, the States of the zone have been making significant strides and recording progress in the spheres of the peaceful resolution of regional or intra-State conflicts, promoting cooperation and development, enlarging frontiers of freedom and human rights and safeguarding the environment from pollution in States of the zone. These are positive contributions to the fulfilment of the objectives of resolution 41/11 and the 1988 Final Document.

7. The second meeting of the States of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic, which took place at Abuja, Nigeria, from 25 to 29 June 1990, naturally benefited from the favourable international political developments, the simultaneous improved regional climate and the foundations of constructive cooperation and fruitful understanding laid at Rio de Janeiro two years earlier.

8. The various discussions and outcome of the meeting made it an epoch-making event in the conscious and determined efforts of the States of the zone to promote peace and regional cooperation, as well as lay the foundations for peace and development in the years ahead. While reiterating the principles and guidelines reached in 1988, the Abuja meeting took concrete steps towards translating them into practical action and thus lay the basis for lasting peace and progress in the South Atlantic region.

9. The Final Document of the Abuja meeting, contained in the General Assembly document A/45/474, speaks for itself in its great depth and vision. The highlights included the admission of Namibia as the twenty-third State of the zone and the call for the international community to recognize the unresolved issue of South Africa relinquishing Walvis Bay as an integral part of Namibia, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and the legitimate aspirations of the Namibian people. Calls were also made for the cessation of foreign interference in the internal affairs of Angola, a development that has now led to the Angolans reaching a peaceful solution to their long-drawn civil war, as well as the removal of serious obstacles hindering the termination of the existing colonial situation in the Malvinas Islands.

10. Important agreements were equally reached in political, security, commercial, financial, scientific, technical, environmental and cultural fields, with the aim of establishing joint mechanisms, coordinating policies, sharing information, promoting contacts and enhancing cooperation in these important areas, as appropriate. The Abuja meeting considered the zone as a platform for South-South cooperation, and associated States of the zone fully with the decisions taken at the summit of the Group of 15 meeting, held at Kuala Lumpur from 1 to 3 June 1990. Cognizant of global concerns with environmental protection, the meeting recognized the importance for the South Atlantic environment of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, scheduled to take place in Brazil in 1992. Finally, determined to ensure that the zone remains continually relevant to the interests of its member States, and the aspirations of the peoples of the zone generally, the Abuja meeting reaffirmed the desire to foster human rights, fundamental freedoms, racial equality, justice and liberty as integral elements of peace and cooperation at national and regional levels.

11. Nigeria, host of the second meeting, was entrusted with the task of coordinating the affairs of the zone from June 1990 till 1992. Such coordination has become necessary in view of varying degrees of political, economic and social development of the 23 States of the zone and the common desire to overcome the serious impediments to the realization of the full potentials for sustainable cooperation, integration and accelerated development envisaged under the Final Document of the Abuja meeting.

12. A number of factors continue to strengthen the widespread optimism in States of the zone about the bright prospects of the zone. Firstly, there is the abundant political will and determination of States on both sides of the South Atlantic zone to overcome centuries of colonial divide and construct mutually beneficial relations based on foundations of South-South cooperation. Secondly, the improved international political climate should encourage regional and global cooperation, the demise of apartheid and other forms of racial injustice that fuel tension, the peaceful settlement of conflicts, an enhanced respect for international law and the Charter of the United Nations, the institution of democratic systems of Governments and a conducive atmosphere for the acquisition of requisite knowledge in science and technology to enable peoples of the States of the zone to realize their full potentials. Thirdly, the invaluable cooperation of the international community in general, and the United Nations in particular, since the establishment of the zone in 1986, has strengthened our confidence that the legitimate hopes and aspirations of States of the zone in resolution 41/11 are well placed.

13. Since the Abuja meeting of June 1990, a number of practical steps have been taken to advance the objectives of States of the zone. Regional and extra-regional initiatives have led to significant transformations in the political and security landscape of two States, Liberia and Angola, as well as in the Malvinas Islands. Developments in South Africa continue to hold the promise of an eventual evolution towards a non-racial, democratic society, when South Africa will be accepted as a State of the zone. The promotion of security and nuclear non-proliferation, to which the zone is irrevocably committed, has been given added impetus with the official commitments of Brazil, Argentina, and Uruguay to the non-proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons in Latin America, as well as the accession of South Africa and neighbouring front-line States in Africa to the Non-Proliferation Treaty. As a zone the members of which belong to other regional and international organizations, Nigeria proudly notes the strong support that the objectives of the zone received from the Heads of States and Government of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) at their summit meeting at Abuja in June 1991, from the Non-Aligned Ministerial Meeting at Accra in September and from the meeting of the Heads of Governments of the Commonwealth at Harare in October 1991.

14. As Coordinator, an important step was taken when the Nigerian Government convened at Lagos on 17 July 1991 a consultative meeting of the States of the zone, which deliberated on practical measures to implement the decisions reached at the Abuja meeting of the States of the zone in June 1990. The

meeting considered appropriate modalities in the key areas of intra-zonal security, trade and economic cooperation, environmental protection, scientific and technical cooperation, cultural and educational contacts and tourism. It also discussed questions of funding from global organizations, and technical cooperation among developing countries in various spheres of interest to the zone. Finally, the issue of the venue of the third high-level meeting of the States of the zone was agreed upon, as well as the need to involve businessmen, scientific experts, scholars and other professionals as part of the national delegations to the next meeting of the States of the zone in 1992 to broaden the level of participation and agenda. These agreements, together with the 1990 Final Document, constitute the blueprints for implementng the objectives of the zone as Coordinator till June 1992 when Nigeria's term as Coordinator will expire. The meeting was attended by the Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Nigeria.

15. Similar interest and assistance continue to be received from the United Nations in pursuit of goals and objectives of the zone, as spelt out in the most recent General Assembly resolutions - 44/20 of 14 November 1989 and 45/36 of 27 November 1990. For example, two important seminars, jointly sponsored by UNDP and the Office for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the United Nations, concerning the maritime law of the zone have been organized. The first was held at Brazzaville frm 12 to 15 June 1990 and was devoted to the review of the development and implementation of the legal regime established by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea as it affects the zone, and the second was held at Montevideo from 3 to 6 April 1991. These seminars have resulted in the identification of priority areas and specific agreements reached on various maritime profiles; the harmonization of relevant national legislation, policy and planning; development of ocean resources, marine science and technology; sharing of information; development of skills and capabilities; and measures concerning the protection and preservation of the marine environment of the zone. We look forward to many such well-focused seminars supported by UNDP and the Office for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, as well as broader multilateral cooperation on other issues of interest to the zone in 1992.

16. In our increasingly interdependent world, in which accommodation is replacing competition, States of the zone have great hopes that the peace dividend will result in the release of resources for improvement in the living standards of all peoples, including especially the peoples of States of the zone. An enduring new world order to which all nations look forward with expectation will only emerge if due recognition is given to the integral linkage between disarmament, security and development in every part of the world. This should translate into a reformed international trading and financial system, increased market access for the products of the developing countries, enhanced financial flows, access of scientific and technological expertise and urgent resolution of the debt burden of States of the zone.

17. In the years ahead, States of the zone will therefore be confronted with challenges of strengthening cooperation and development among themselves. Nigeria believes that by reason of the multifaceted contacts among the States,

the zone occupies a unique place in meeting these challenges. Nigeria's role as Coordinator has reinforced the confidence in the future of the zone as a great catalyst for cooperation and development in the South Atlantic region.

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United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland ..... 2

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

[Original: English]

[30 October 1991]

The British Government welcome the objectives of the resolution, which are to promote peace and cooperation in the South Atlantic. In this regard they wish to draw attention to the recent developments in Anglo-Argentine relations which have contributed to the lessening of tension in the South-West Atlantic and allow the inhabitants of the Falkland Islands to enjoy a secure and peaceful future with the traditional links with Britain that they wish to maintain. In particular, the British Government wish to emphasize the progress in bilateral cooperation on fisheries that has contributed to conservation of stocks, and the continued contribution of confidence-building measures, agreed at the Madrid talks in February 1990, which have helped avoid unnecessary incidents and strengthened mutual trust. With regard to the latter, a substantive meeting between British and Argentine officials took place in London in June at which constructive discussions on measures designed to promote security and confidence in the South-West Atlantic took place in a cordial atmosphere. Measures were agreed by both Governments and announced in a Joint Statement on 25 September a copy of which was transmitted to the Secretary-General in accordance with the requirements of paragraph 3 of the Joint Statement and which has been circulated as General Assembly and Security Council document A/46/596-S/23164.

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